

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 HA-05

/037 W

-----007165 021717Z /43

R 021425Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7188

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 1051

FOR CU/AF

USIA FOR IOP, IAA

PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SHUM, IV

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. WARREN WEINSTEIN

REF: STATE 3705

SUMMARY: DURING FOUR-DAY VISIT TO ABIDJAN, WEINSTEIN HAD EXTENSIVE

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AND PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGES ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH LEADING IVORIAN JURISTS, SCHOLARS, JOURNALISTS, DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. WEINSTEIN IDENTIFIED SEVERAL POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS FOR THE RWANDAN COLLOQUIUM, AND GAVE A 45-MINUTE ROUNDTABLE INTERVIEW/DISCUSSION TO FOUR JOURNALISTS BROADCAST ON PRIME TIME TELEVISION JAN. 30, WHICH SPARKED EDITORIAL IN OFFICIAL "FRATERNITE-MATIN" OF FEBRUARY 1.

2. ALTHOUGH HERE PRIMARILY TO DEVELOP IVORIAN INTEREST IN COLLOQUIUM AND RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS, WEINSTEIN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CROSS-SECTION OF IVORIANS REVEALED GREAT INTEREST AND CONCERN WITH QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FOLLOWING HOUR-LONG BRIEFING WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS, WEINSTEIN CALLED ON PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT BONI, WHO WELCOMED WEINSTEIN'S INITIATIVE IN ORGANIZING RWANDAN COLLOQUIUM BUT EXPRESSED REGRETS HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. BONI EXPLAINED GOIC'S CONCERN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE MEANINGLESS UNLESS PEOPLE IN COUNTRY-SIDE REAPED ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT. BONI WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT LDC SOMETIMES FOUND IT NECESSARY TO LIMIT SOME INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS FOR DEVELOPMENT REASONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT GOIC DOES NOT PAY FULL PRICE TO COFFEE AND COCOA PRODUCERS AND THAT PROFITS ARE USED BOTH TO PROMOTE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES AND ALSO FOR A STABILIZATION FUND WHICH ENSURES SET PRICES AND PROTECTS FARMERS FROM SUDDEN DROP IN WORLD COMMODITIES MARKETS. AT BONI'S SUGGESTION, WEINSTEIN CALLED ON RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF ABIDJAN, DEAN OF FACULTY OF LETTERS AND INADES (INSTITUT AFRICAIN POUR LE DEVELOPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL), WHICH HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT FRANCOPHONE AFRICA.

3. WEINSTEIN MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH IVORIAN ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS TO EXPLAIN PURPOSES OF COLLOQUIUM, DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA, AND CURRENT STATUS U.S. INITIATIVES. MEETING SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED JURISTS THAT THEY REQUESTED SECOND SESSION BEFORE UNCLASSIFIED

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WEINSTEIN'S DEPARTURE MONDAY EVENING. IVORIAN JURISTS PRESENT (LED BY FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FORMING

REGIONAL WEST AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTING A LEGAL OMBUDSMAN SYSTEM (LACK OF TRAINED LEGAL PERSONNEL), AND HOW BEST TO SPREAD NOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT IVORY COAST. PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION HOPES TO PARTICIPATE IN COLLOQUIUM AND WILL WORK WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION TO DEVELOP DRAFT PAPER ON POPULARIZING HUMAN RIGHTS IN IVORY COAST.

4. WEINSTEIN AND EMBASSY OFFICER ALSO CALLED ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MFA, ARMEL KOUDOU, WHO COVERS AFRICAN AFFAIRS. AFTER WEINSTEIN BRIEFED KOUDOU ON THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT,

KOUDOU JOINED HIM IN AN OUTSPOKEN AND CANDID EXCHANGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. KOUDOU MADE CLEAR TO WEINSTEIN THAT HE WAS MOST WELCOME IN IVORY COAST AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE IVORIAN JURISTS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE KIGALI COLLOQUIUM.

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5. BY FAR MOST WIDE-RANGING AND STIMULATING DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE WITH GROUP OF IVORIAN JOURNALISTS AT HOME OF INFORMATION OFFICER, WHERE THEY DISCUSSED DEFINITION AND APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY ALSO VIEWED USIA VIDEO TAPE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH FEATURES STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY VANCE AND REPRESENTATIVE ALLARD LOWENSTEIN. THE NEXT MORNING THE SAME GROUP OF JOURNALISTS CONDUCTED A 45-MINUTE TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH WEINSTEIN, WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON PRIME TIME EVENING OF JANUARY 30. INTERVIEW WAS CHARACTERIZED BY GREAT INTEREST IN WHAT JOURNALISTS TERMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S "CRUSADE" AND NEED TO DIRECT EFFORTS AT BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA. IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAPING PROGRAM, JOURNALISTS WONDERED HOW DISCUSSION WOULD BE RECEIVED AS IT HAD BEEN AT THEIR INITIATIVE WITHOUT CLEARANCE AT TOP LEVELS OF TV OR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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VIEWED WITH KEEN INTEREST BY LARGE NUMBER OF IVORIANS. THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF GUINEA'S COURT OF APPEAL NOW WORKING IN GOIC, TELE-

PHONED USIS FOLLOWING DAY TO EXPRESS ADMIRATION FOR PROGRAM AND REQUEST WEINSTEIN'S STATESIDE ADDRESS.

6. TODAY'S "FRATERNITE-MATIN" EDITORIAL SAID THE WEINSTEIN TELEVISION INTERVIEW "EXPOSED SEVERAL POINTS USEFUL FOR ORIENTING A DEBATE ON THE SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA." IT SAW THE CAMPAIGN "ENCOURAGED BY A GREAT NATION SUCH AS THE U.S. AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRUGGLE BY THE BLACK MAJORITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CONTINENT." CITING BASIC HUMAN ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS NECESSARY BUT FAR FROM ADEQUATE IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THE PAPER GOES ON TO ASK IF "A SOCIETY THAT IGNORES THE BASIC ASPIRATION TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION DOES NOT RUN THE RISK OF GENERATING A SOCIAL UPHEAVAL." THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT "IT IS IMPERATIVE TO FIND THE MEANS, ACCORDING TO THE TEMPERAMENT OF EACH PEOPLE, TO BUILD A SOCIETY ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF ITS CITIZENS."

7 IN SUM, WEINSTEIN VISIT EXTREMELY USEFUL IN SPREADING GREATER AWARENESS AMONG DIVERSE GROUPS OF U.S. POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IT ALSO MAY HAVE SERVED TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN FURTHERING HUMAN RIGHTS IN IVORY COAST, VIZ. THE ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS' INTEREST IN DRAFTING A PAPER FOR THE COLLOQUIUM AND IN DEVELOPING SOME FORM OF LEGAL OMBUDSMAN. WEINSTEIN WELL VERSED ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, HAS GOOD BACKGROUND IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH, AND EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME FOLLOW-UP VISIT LATER IN YEAR. INDEED, SEVERAL CONTACTS MENTIONED INTEREST IN RETURN VISIT OF GREATER DURATION. AND TIME DID NOT PERMIT CALLS ON ALL INTENDED CONTACTS.

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## Message Attributes

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